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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8245
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 0138

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000106

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STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA, PM, INL
STATE FOR INR/R/MR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [CI](#) [HA](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - HAITI

On January 16, conservative afternoon "La Segunda" (circ. 31,834) carried a signed letter by Senator Jorge Arancibia entitled, "Our Presence in Haiti." Quote:

"When we returned (from Haiti) we agreed to maintain the presence of our troops for six more months... We were surprised to receive a bill from the GOC proposing to reduce our soldiers' salaries by 50% compared to the salary of our public officers on foreign missions... The argument was that the soldiers received room and board--sleeping in cots with mosquito nets--so had fewer expenses than diplomatic personnel who travel with their families. This GOC initiative is discriminatory and unfair and should be strongly rejected."

On January 14, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried an editorial entitled, "Frustrating Mission in Haiti." Quote:
"For the time being, national authorities suggest Chileans will remain in Haiti for two years. Probably, before June, when the Senate again must decide whether to extend the mission, they will ask for details about the direct and indirect expenses and alternatives to military cooperation... The prospects for the Minustah plan's success should also be known in detail."
KELLY